

REMARKS

Reconsideration is courteously requested.

As a preliminary matter, the drawings and specification have been amended for the sake of clarity. More particularly, FIG. 7 now includes the correct and uniform reference of the positioning rod of the apparatus vis-a-vis reference numeral 97; and, the first full paragraph of page 6 of the specification, as filed, presently deletes a redundant phrase, namely "of the pan 11."

With regard to the claims, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 18-20, and 22 have been amended for the sake of clarity; claims 8, 15-17, 21, and 23-25 have been canceled, without prejudice; and, new claims 26-35 added. As will be discussed herein below, as none of the references of record show, or fairly suggest, one or more of Applicants' features in a bending apparatus, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are patentably distinct therefrom. Furthermore, as the clarifying amendment of claim 1 obviates the objection to claims 1-25 (see DETAILED ACTION, p. 2), all claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicants' Claimed Subject Matter

All claims, either amended for the sake of clarity, or newly added, emphasize Applicants' feature of mobile followers or guides (i.e., non-driven elements) for engagement with the architecture element in a bending apparatus. As to the independent claims, claim 1 requires, among other things, the followers to be free for